

Appl. No.: 10/772,995
Amdt. dated December 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the final Office Action dated October 4, 2005, Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1-7, 15-17, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 103(a) in light of U.S. Patent No. 2,879,804 to Hammond, U.S. Patent No. 3,429,592 to Merkwacz, and/or U.S. Patent No. 3,976,312 to Murphee. Claims 7-14 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Office Action also indicates that the drawings are not approved and objects to the abstract.

First, Applicant is amending the Abstract above as requested by the Examiner. In particular, the last sentence of the Abstract, regarding the method of manufacture, is deleted. This amendment should address the Examiner's concern. The Examiner's careful review of the application is noted with appreciation.

With regard to the drawings, the Office Action merely states that the drawings received on July 14, 2005 were not approved. The Office Action does not include any objection to the drawings, and it appears that the previous objections (in the Office Action dated April 14, 2005) have been withdrawn. Indeed, Applicant submits that the previous objections were wholly overcome for the reasons set forth in Applicant's prior Amendment filed July 14, 2005, regardless of the non-approval of the replacement drawings. Thus, even if the replacement drawings are not entered, no objections to the drawings remain. Further, with regard to the replacement drawings, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings do not present any new matter and therefore should be entered. As noted in the Amendment filed July 14, 2005, the first two sheets of the replacement drawings were the same as the original sheets but simply renumbered. The third sheet of replacement drawings included new Figure 4, which illustrates an enlarged view of a portion of Figure 2. Notably, the second reinforcement profile 9 and second reinforcement wiring 8' are not shown in the view provided in Figure 4; however, this cannot be considered new matter as Figure 4 merely illustrates a partial, enlarged view of Figure 2. In any case, as noted above, the objections to the drawings are overcome regardless of the entry of the replacement figures. Therefore, while Applicant respectfully submits that the replacement figures should be approved and entered, the application is allowable in either case.

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Turning now to the rejections under § 102(b) and § 103(a), Claim 1 is amended above to include each of the features of Claim 8 and intervening Claims 2-7. Claim 8 was previously indicated to be allowable, and Claim 1 is therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 9-28 are allowable. No new issues have been raised. Therefore, in the event that any rejection is maintained, Applicant requests entry of the above amendments, which place the application in better condition for appeal.

* * * *

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the remarks presented above, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



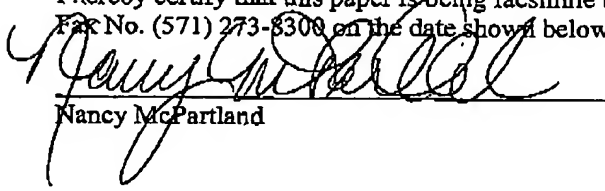
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Nancy McPartland

December 30, 2005
Date